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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H01L29/786 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H01L Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) PAJ, EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to daim No. X EP 0 497 216 A (TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INC) 1-11 5 August 1992 (1992-08-05) column 2, line 3 - line 9 column 4, line 40 -column 5, line 14 column 5, line 54 -column 6, line 36; claims; figures X EP 0 574 137 A (SEIKO INSTR INC) 1-11 15 December 1993 (1993-12-15) column 13, line 28 -column 14, line 6: figures 12,13 X US 5 982 002 A (TAKASU HIROAKI ET AL) 1 - 119 November 1999 (1999-11-09) column 12, line 39 -column 13, line 61; figures 14,15 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. X Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled citation or other special reason (as specified) 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 06/10/2004 3 September 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Hoffmann, N

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